

Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri Biographies of Mississippi County, 1888

A B C D E F G H J K L M O P R S T V W Y



Robert Langsdale

Robert Langsdale was born in

Somerset County, Md., January 7, 1842, and is a son of Robert and Eleanor (Bebsworth) Langsdale, both natives of Maryland, and of English descent. The grandfather Bebsworth served four years in the army in England, after which he came to America, and fought three years in the Revolutionary War. He then immigrated to Maryland, in which State he died. Robert Langsdale was born in 1812, and was reared near Quantico, Md. He owned considerable land, which his slaves cultivated. He also owned three sailing vessels, which ran from Baltimore to Washington, Philadelphia and Charleston, S.C. He followed boating in early life, but after he became owner of those vessels, he had them run by hired help. He was very successful in business, being at the time of his death worth about \$30,000. His death occurred in 1857. He and wife were the parents of eight children, viz: Mary A., Estella, John L., Margaret, Thaddeus, Robert, William T. (deceased) and Laura E. (deceased). Robert was reared on his father's farm, upon which he remained until the beginning of the war; when he enlisted in the Confederate army joining Company C, Twenty-third Regiment of Maryland, with which he participated in a few skirmishes. Upon returning to his regiment, after a visit home on furlough, he was captured April 4, 1864, and was taken to Baltimore prison where he was kept two months before he had his trial. Three charges were brought against him: first, as being a rebel spy; second as being a rebel soldier, and in the Federal lines; and third, for running the blockades. He was sentenced to one year's hard labor, at Fort Jefferson, on the coast of Florida. After serving his time at the prison, in which he fared very poorly, he returned home, and engaged to work on a sailing vessel. He afterward bought a third interest in a vessel, and became its master, remaining with it on the sea until 1869, when he, with his wife and two children, removed to Mississippi County, Mo., where he has since resided, engaged in farming. In 1866 he wedded Roxana Brown, a native of Maryland, who died in 1881, having borne four children, viz: Willie V., George W., Alberta (deceased) and Laura (deceased). Mr. Langsdale afterward married Sallie Black, by whom he had one child (deceased). This wife died in 1883. On August 26, 1886, he was united in marriage with Lu Ella Alexander, a daughter of John and Frances E. (Trice) Alexander. The father was born in Virginia, August 30, 1816 and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Powers) Alexander, of German and English descent, respectively. John Alexander was reared in Christian County, Ky., and is a farmer. In 1845 he removed to Ballard County, where he has since resided, until the last few years. He has been a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church since 1835. He and wife were married on April 15, 1849 and are the parents of eight children, five of whom are living: Sarah A., Lucy F., Mercie E., Ella and William R. His wife died in November, 1865. Mr. and Mrs. Langsdale have one child, Nellie, deceased. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a member of the A.O.U.W.

James A. Lee

James A. Lee, an enterprising

farmer of Mississippi County, was born in Bullitt County, Ky., on March 31, 1839. He is a son of William T. and Dorothea (Lee) Lee, both natives of Bullitt County, Ky. Both the grandfathers, John Lee and Henry Lee emigrated from Maryland to Kentucky, and settled in Bullitt County, where the former died. The latter remained there several years, and in 1848 removed to Mississippi County, Mo., and settled on a farm in Mathews' Prairie, joining the farm on which James A. now resides, and on which he lived until his death on March 31, 1864. William T. Lee was a farmer, and came with his parents to Mississippi County, when he purchased the old McElmurry farm, on which our subject now resides. He soon had the place under cultivation, with good improvements, and resided there until his death on January 2, 1862. His wife died in October 1878. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom three are living: Nancy (Mrs. W.H. Snellin), James A. and Rebecca (Mrs. Frank Howell). Those deceased are Margaret, John H., Elizabeth, Susan, Phillip, and an infant unnamed. James A. was but nine years of age when he came with his parents to Mississippi County. In 1861 he enlisted in Capt. Price's Company, First Missouri Cavalry, under Gen. Jeff. Thompson (confederate). On December 28, 1861, he was captured at his home by the Second Illinois Cavalry, and was taken to Bird's Point, where he was kept in prison for two months. He was then sent (via St. Louis, where he was kept one week) to Alton, Ill., where he remained two months. After enduring many hardships, and being reduced much in flesh, he as released from prison on parole May 20, 1862 and returned home and resumed farming, assisting his mother in taking care of his younger brothers and sisters, as his father had died while he was in prison. He has been twice married, the first time to Belle Hudson, who died in 1873. He was married the second time, in 1883 to Elizabeth Smith, a native of Mississippi County. Mr. Lee is a member of the Masonic fraternity and I.O.O.F., and is also a Wheeler.

John Lett

John Lett a substantial

farmer near Bertrand, Mississippi County, was born in McNairy County, Tenn., in 1843. He is a son of Ambrose Lett, a native of East Tennessee, born in 1815. The latter was married to Nettie Jane Clayton, who was born in North Carolina, on July 3, 1821, and when a young girl was taken by her parents to Tennessee. They made the journey with teams, and settled in McNairy County. Mr. Ambrose Lett was a very successful farmer, and he brought his wife and children to Southeast Missouri about 1844, and located east of Charleston, where he resided about one year. He then resided at Springfield and Cape Girardeau each one year, when he returned to Mississippi County and located near Bertrand, where he died in 1863, universally beloved and respected. After his death his widow married Henry Fletcher, a native of Henry County, Tenn., who had spent the most of his life in Texas, engaged in farming. Five years after his marriage he went away and has never been heard from since. His wife now resides with the subject of this sketch. She has been a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for more than thirty years. She and Mr. Lett were the parents of eight children: Mary Jane (deceased), John, Mary Catherine, William, Louisa (widow of Marion Francis), Lucinda (deceased) and Matthew Hubbard. John lived at his father's until 1867, when he married Mary J. Hainely, who was born in Dunklin County, Mo., in 1843. She is the daughter of Thomas Hainely, of German descent. He relocated near Hot Springs, Ark. After residing there one year, he moved back to Dunklin County and remained about six years, when he removed to Mississippi County. He died at the age of thirty-seven years (in 1857) and his wife when thirty-five years of age (in 1853). Their children are George P., Mary J., Thomas G., Samuel and Elizabeth, all deceased, except Mary J. After his marriage Mr. Lett engaged in farming on the place upon which he now resides. He was engaged in the mercantile business at Sikeston for twenty six months but in 1884 he returned to his farm, upon which he has a fine residence, built in that year. He and wife have had nine children, three of whom are living: Thomas L., Albert E. and John R. Those deceased are Mary L., Robert J., Altha J. and Albert J. (twins), Leonard F. and Laura May. Politically Mr. Lett is a Democrat. He is also a Mason and a member of the A.O.U.W.

J.W. Lindsay

J.W. Lindsay, dealer in

General merchandise at Charleston, was born in St. Louis, March 13, 1842, and is a son of Joseph and Ann (Walker) Lindsay, both of whom were natives of County Kildare, Ireland. The former was a farmer by vocation. In 1840 he left his native country for America, taking passage at Liverpool. After several weeks ocean voyage, he landed at New Orleans, from whence he went up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, where he was engaged in business until his death by cholera in 1849. His widow died in St. Louis, in 1875. They had nine children. Those living are Horatio, Eliza J., Emily, Charlotte, Harriet and John W. Those dead are Frederick, Arthur and Joseph. John W. was about seven years of age when his father died. His widowed mother, left with the care of a large family, gave him such education in his native city as she could afford. In 1853 he went to Charleston, Mo., and entered the store of George W. Kenrick, as clerk. Remaining with him until 1862, he enlisted in the famous Camp Jackson Confederate organization. He was taken prisoner at the camp, but was paroled, and in 1863-64 he attended Notre Dame College, at South Bend, Ind., taking a business course. He was then employed as clerk by Mr. Kenrick until 1870, when he engaged in his present business. He now owns the store-building, of which he occupies two rooms, and also owns the two adjoining buildings, a room for agricultural implements, in which he deals extensively, and also in wagons and buggies, etc. He was married in 1872 to Sonora Taylor, of Cape Girardeau, by whom he has four children: John W., Sonora, Thomas and Lucilla. Mrs. Lindsay is a member of the Catholic church. Mr. Lindsay is a member of the Episcopal Church. He is a Mason and a member of the Blue Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter.

William Love

William Love, an enterprising

merchant of Bertrand, Mississippi Co., Mo., was born in Caswell County, N.C., on the 22d day of November, 1830. He is a son of John and Martha Love, of Scotch-English descent. The former died in North Carolina, when forty-four years of age, and soon after (in 1846) his widow and children immigrated to Tennessee. The journey being overland required seven weeks. The family resided in Tennessee until the death of their mother, at the age of sixty-seven years. The parents were very prominent and popular people, being consistent members and strong supporters of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They were the parents of thirteen children, ten of whom died in infancy. Nancy (who was the wife of A. Heggie, of Bertrand) was married in North Carolina, quite young. They afterward moved to Tennessee, where they resided until 1873, when they moved to Bertrand. They resided there until his death, which occurred December 25, 1887, at the mature age of seventy-seven years. Nancy raised two children, John and Martha. John lives in Charleston, and Martha lives near Camden, Benton Co., Tenn. Ira died during the Rebellion, leaving a widow and four children. William Love being the youngest of the three, lived with his mother until 1861, when he was drafted into the army. His occupation up to this time was that of an agriculturist. In 1872 he married M.E. Rushing, a daughter of Richard Rushing. He was at this time engaged in general merchandising. The next year he moved to Bertrand, and continued in the same business there. In 1875 his wife died, leaving one child (a boy), Charley. In 1881 he was again married to Mrs. S.E. Williams, a native of Tennessee, with whom he now lives, and has two more children, Ella and Spencer. Soon after his arrival at Bertrand he bought 75 acres of land and now owns about 1,000 acres. Mr. and Mrs. Love, are active and prominent citizens of Bertrand, and take an active part in the Methodist Episcopal Church at that place, he being class-leader and superintendent of the Sunday-school.

John F. Lynn

John F. Lynn, a prominent farmer of Mississippi County, was born in Massac County, Ill., on January 23, 1846, and is a son of Cheatham and Angeline (Linn) Lynn, natives of Tennessee and Kentucky, respectively. The grandparents on both sides were from North Carolina. Cheatham Lynn was born on March 29, 1810, and was the fourth child of a family of fourteen children, of whom Joseph, Benjamin, Bartlett, Andrew J., Samuel H. and Martha are living. Those dead are Young, Craven, Cheatham, John G., Cornelius, Nathaniel, Pitts and Patten. Cheatham Lynn was married in Kentucky, soon after which he removed to Illinois, and was there engaged in farming until 1869, when he removed to Southeast Missouri, and located in the Concord settlement, in Mississippi County, having purchased land there about 1859. Mr. Lynn took an active part in politics and other local matters, being a man of energy, talent and ability. He died on July 16, 1885. His wife was born on January 1, 1822 and died on March 4, 1874. To them were born William P., John F., George D., James M., Jerome, Lusetta B. and a boy and girl, who died in infancy. The first six are now residents of Mississippi County. John F. came to Mississippi County in 1866. Two years previously, March 4, 1864, he married Lusetta Somersett, a native of Tennessee. She died on March 2, 1883. Their children are Stephen D., born on June 22, 1856; Adda A. (Mrs. R.E. Stanley), born January 22, 1867; Mary R., born January 13, 1869; John F., born on April 13, 1871, died on October 29, 1887; Corah A., born on November 20, 1873, died in August, 1878; Cheatham born on May 9, 1877; Napoleon B., born on December 8, 1878; Emma F., born on January 30, 1880, died in Jul 1880; and Lula, born on July 18, 1882, died on March 4, 1883. Mr. Lynn was married the second time to Mrs. Luvisa A. (Warford) Small, who was bon on June 5, 1853, and is a daughter of John S. and Emily J. Warford, both of whom are now living in Clinton, Ky. Luvisa A. was married on October 5, 1876 to William E. Small, who died on March 10, 1880, leaving two children: Edith I., born on July 29, 1877, and Edmund W., born on October 22, 1879. To Mr. and Mrs. Lynn have been born Honor, born on April 7, 1885, and Jefferson, born on November 30, 1887. They are also rearing three orphans, children of William T. and Eliza (Lynn) Clariday. They are Ida B., born on June 23, 1870; Lillie M., born on April 6, 1874; and Edward R., born on February 11, 1880. Mr. Lynn has been justice of the peace since 1874, and has taken an active part in school matters since 1870. Politically he is a Democrat, and is an active member of the Christian Church. Mrs. Lynn is a member of the Missionary Baptist Church. Mr. Lynn is a member of the Knights of the Golden Rule, of the Wheel and has been a member of the Patrons of Husbandry.

USGENWEB ARCHIVES NOTICE: These electronic pages may NOT be reproduced in any format for profit or presentation by any other organization or persons. Persons or organizations desiring to use this material, must obtain the written consent of the contributor, or the legal representative of the submitter, and contact the listed USGenWeb archivist with proof of this consent. The submitter has given permission to the USGenWeb Archives to store the file permanently for free access.

This site is a part of [USGenWeb](#) MOGenWeb Mississippi county Missouri Web site